

TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

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The Oldest Newspaper in Cochise County

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OUR UNSATISFACTORY PRIMARY LAW

(Globe Record)

The bi-ennial scramble for office in Arizona is on and the number of candidates that have tassed their castors into the ring, if not legion, is a plenty, and according to their own estimates of themselves, they are all eminently qualified to serve the dear people in the positions to which they aspire. Their names will appear on the primary ballot of the party with which they have aligned themselves but it is doubtful if any considerable number of them could intelligently explain the principles for which their party stands, or the issues of the campaign, if there were any worthwhile.

Before we became so "progressive" and adopted the present primary election system, under which any citizen is privileged to enter the running for any office, the honor or emoluments of which appeals to him—and generally it is emoluments—the party convention plan for the nomination of candidates was in vogue, and had been since the birth of party politics in this country; and while not without its defects, it was generally accepted as being the most representative and satisfactory method that could be devised.

Under the party convention plan the candidates were definitely placed before the people; their principles and policies were prescribed with exactitude, to depart from which meant their political retirement at the end of the term for which they might be elected. The candidate was never at a loss to present his platform, and the people were never deceived as to what they might expect of the candidate for or against whom they were called upon to vote.

The primary election system is provocative of discord and confusion. It is irresponsible, and levels our politics from a truly representative quality to the personal equation. It is a selfish system and unsatisfactory.

SHOTGUNS AND GERMANS

One of the many grievances against Americans that the Germans have developed lately is based on the reported use of sawed-off shotguns by our troops.

There doesn't seem to be any official testimony as to whether Pershing's army is using this weapon or not; but it is certainly conceivable that an abbreviated double barreled shotgun might do valiant execution in short-range trench shooting. The German indignation, in fact, seems to be due to this very effectiveness.

It is a barbarous implement, our Hun critics cry, which no "honorable fighters" would think of using. It is a weapon for barbarians.

This characteristic Teutonic bleat is intended to show us unmistakably "where we get off" in the cultured opinion of central Europe. But we refuse to be impressed. Try as we may, we cannot figure out why a shotgun should be any worse than poison gas, liquid fire, aerial torpedoes and other ingenious innovations made by the gentle Germans in this war.

We cannot even see that a load of buckshot fired at 10 yards is any worse than a shrapnel shell fired at 1000 yards. The ingredients are about the same and meant for the same purpose. Certainly if shotguns will kill Huns with greater effectiveness than any of the more conventional weapons used in the battle zone, we are for them. We are accustomed, anyway, to using buckshot for beasts and burglars.

THE WRONG TIME

(Tucson Daily Star)

In Cochise county there is considerable comment and much feeling over the coming election which will decide whether or not the court house, now located at Tombstone, shall be moved. It would appear on the surface, without recourse to intensive investigation, that the election is being held at the wrong time.

Divorcing sentiment, in which Tombstone lays legitimate claim on the county seat, it appears that to move the court house at this time, or within the next year or two, would add most materially to the costs of maintaining Cochise county. To move the county seat at this time would involve a tremendous expenditure. It would involve double prices for all material involved and would cost the taxpayers more than it should. Cochise county now is experiencing difficulty in building a much needed road. The county road commission has found that the costs are nearly prohibitive. That will be the case, if not worse, should it be decided to move the court house and the county offices to some other town in the county.

During the war it is unwise to expend the taxpayers' money for improvements, state, county or municipal, unless they are absolutely necessary. A new court house in Cochise county is not absolutely necessary. Tombstone declares that it is not at all necessary and adds that it is merely an endeavor on the part of Douglas, to help that community at the expense of the balance of the county.

Douglas avers that the removal of the county seat to Douglas or to the Warren district would be an economy to the taxpayers, placing the county business in a more centralized location and thereby saving the people who have business at the court house many dollars in travel-

ing expenses alone. Douglas is in a position to accept the county seat. As to the Warren district there seems to be a considerable doubt, even in the minds of the attorneys, whether the county seat could be brought there. There is no room in Bisbee and Warren is not incorporated and it is not considered by many people contiguous to Bisbee, which is an incorporated city. Douglas declares a complete disinterestedness in the matter of where the county seat goes—just so it is taken away from Tombstone.

The people of Cochise county are well governed. Their court house and county offices are models in many instances. They appear to do very well with the county seat where it is at the present time. From a distance, it appears that when the vote is counted this fall the people of that county will be agreeable to let Tombstone still be the county seat. It will not be a matter of sentiment; it will be a matter of cost.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY CAMOUFLAGE

The two Douglas newspapers have already started in on their camouflage twaddle, harping about the removal of the county seat to—of course—Douglas. No sooner had the board of supervisors ordered the election, when the petition presented had been declared legal by the county attorney, than the Douglas newspaper twins started in. One says "Of course Douglas will be a candidate for the county seat at the November election."

They would have it appear that Douglas is merely getting in the race now that the election has been called, and not that Douglas has forced the issue for the past ten years with vigor because a few grafters wish to get their hooks on the taxpayers for as much as they can, and they do not stop at doing it even in war times.

Contrary to Douglas' expectations and wishes, Tombstone did not and will not fight the petition they have presented, even if on the face of it there appears crooked work and an attempt to camouflage the people by not attaching addresses and dates to each name signed. The taxpayers of Cochise county are not fools. They think for themselves, despite the fact that a few grafters in Douglas would do their thinking, and acting, if possible, for them. Everyone knows that most of the names signed to the petition were secured in Douglas, and that Douglas alone has been responsible for the election being called, because, as is characteristic with them of wanting everything, they want the county seat in Douglas.

The people of Tombstone are not afraid to have the matter go to a vote. They have shown it by allowing, without a murmur, the alleged petition to be called legal. Let the Douglas profiteers spread their campaign of lies and camouflage if they care, and see whether the taxpayers—the ones who will stand the brunt of this move—speak for themselves as to whether they want the county seat moved from the present location.

Truly, as one of the Douglas papers says this "is a business proposition." But, we believe it is mostly the taxpayers' business, and not the few who would profit by the move.

The county seat is conveniently located at present in the center of the county, and it is not compatible with the best interests at this time to create the expenditure of from \$750,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00 for a new court house.

But, it is yet early to embark into a campaign, and present the several angles that center on the attempt to move the county seat from Tombstone to Douglas. The taxpayers of Cochise county will take the "arguments" of the Douglas removalists with a grain of salt, for the ulterior motive is too plain.

HOW ABOUT BONDS

How the Douglas county seat removal pirates expect to sell bonds to build a new courthouse, if it should ever be voted to move the county seat, is a matter of more than passing conjecture, and this was brought into plainer light several days ago when C. O. Ellis, cashier of the Bank of Douglas, who is credited with being one of the most shrewd financial men of the southwest, in an honest opinion to the Board of Supervisors last Monday regarding the sale of Cochise County Highway Bonds, said:

"Gentlemen, unless you sell the remaining half of these bonds (\$500,000.00) within the next thirty days you will not sell them until after the war and maybe for some time after the war ends because the bond market is going to be virtually off the boards as all resources must be conserved for the Government."

Mr. Ellis exhibited to the Board telegraphic evidence in substantiation of his statement, from eastern sources. Many people are wondering, in the face of that statement, how the promoters of the county seat removal deal propose to put over their hearts desire when it means an unlimited, exorbitant income from rents, which will go into the coffers of a certain pack of profiteers in Douglas.

No bonds for a new court house can be sold for an indefinite period, even if they were voted and if it were voted to move the county seat to Douglas it would mean into rented and scattered buildings, for an indefinite period.

Think it over, Mr. Taxpayer.

HELL NOT ONLY PLACE

In the old days hell's fire and brimstone were intimately associated, but there are other places that have their brimstone in greater quantity than the abode of the devil. The whole belt extending the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula are masses of sulphur from the big volcanic disturbances, and while shallow, will some day become a valuable asset. During the last volcano the sulphur dust practically obliterated the land and it will be some time before vegetation again makes its appearance. Another deposit of sulphur is in the Cocopah mountains, Lower California. These deposits are extensive and will be valuable if close to railroad or water communication. The sulphur is a necessity in the economic life of the nation and the cheap operated deposits are worth looking after.

THE FIRST FALSE REPORT

A certain official residing in Douglas is spreading the story that if the county seat remains in Tombstone the Board of Supervisors is going to have to spend \$150,000 to build an addition to the court house here right away. This is the most silly and foolish statement that one could imagine because there is not one word of truth in it and any person of ordinary intelligence should know better. True, the present court house is somewhat cramped for vault room but a small addition would solve the situation. However, the entire cost of the court house building up to the present time, including the new and up to date jail has not exceeded \$150,000 and it is possible that this official who is spreading this report would have the people think that the present quarters are only half big enough to handle the business. His statement is too absurd to bear consideration, and it was made to one of the big taxpayers of Douglas. Such false statements but act as boomerangs and we are glad to hear them so early in the game, and are fully prepared to refute them and prove their utter falseness.

DON'T BACK OUT NOW

When you bought your War Savings Stamps you loaned your money to the Government for a period of five years to be used in carrying on the war. The war isn't over and the five years aren't up. So don't ask your Uncle Sam to give you your money back now.

A new form of slacker has come into being. He is the man who bought War Savings Stamps to save himself from criticism and now is going to the postoffice with his stamps to get his money back. The man or woman or child who cashes in his War Savings Stamps when he can afford to hold them is false to his flag and false to the soldiers who are defending it.

The money that you loaned the government when you bought your stamps has been spent for a gun which has been placed in the hands of some soldier. Are you now going to take the gun out of that soldier's hands by asking for your money back? A loyal American will undergo great sacrifice before he demands payment on this promissory note Uncle Sam has given him.

GERMANY ON THE DEFENSIVE

Foch is giving the battered Germans no time for a breathing spell. With the Marne salient straightened out, Franco-American troops are breaching the German grip on the line of the Vesle, and yesterday there began a smashing Anglo-French offensive in Picardy.

The new British and French drive must inevitably carry new consternation into Germany. Its gain of enemy positions up to seven miles deep along a front of twenty miles the first day and its toll of 7,000 prisoners and 100 guns are all loud enough to be heard not only at Berlin but to Constantinople and beyond. It brings fresh proof that the offensive in the Marne salient was no military accident, but that Foch has so fully worked out his plans that he is capable of attacking all along the line. In all military history there has never been another such remarkable "reversal of form" as that which has taken place since the middle of July and which has placed the German armies on the defensive.

PATRIOTISM

The Douglas Dispatch spends considerable time and space admonishing the people of Douglas on their lack of patriotism; one time for their lack of patriotism in failing to remove their hats and not showing proper respect when the national anthem is played, and another for lack of respect toward soldiers, and still another aimed at the girls for not enlisting with the nurse reserve corps. But still the Dispatch claims that Douglas is "patriotic" in their desire to move the county seat to Douglas. We would have the Dispatch give an explanation of patriotism under the existing conditions there.

TAILINGS

A 3,500 ton steel ship has been launched in fourteen days from the laying of the keel. And this new record is made not at the seashore but on the Great Lakes—where also thousands of American sailors are trained for the war. With 118 ship-yards at work, others approaching completion and all out for records, the United States can say, as Kaiser Wilhelm once did, that its future is on the water.

Beginning August 1 the Federal Government took charge of the labor situation except on farms and railroads, in non-war work and in small establishments, with the idea of routing out idlers and diminishing the wasteful system of "fire and hire." For the man who hates to work, fight or be card-indexed, life is just one thing after another.

There are now 118 fully equipped shipyards in the United States, with forty-four others partly complete. Here is preparation for peace as well as war on a vast scale and promising an output of ships sufficient to dominate the seas.

According to Otto H. Kahn, in France "when you see a boy in uniform with a girl on each arm, that is an American." Thus the entente cordiale progresses under conditions acceptable to the people of both countries.

The Fathers of July 4, 1776 did not mind risking their necks in a union of 13 feeble states in a very hazardous war, but don't expect 13 people now to sit down to dinner in our peaceful homes.

It is not, of course, a time to be unduly optimistic. But the country may be pardoned a little indulgence in cheerfulness in the circumstances; it had enough pessimism in the past.

England may have ploughed up the golf links to get food, but our people will be pretty hungry before they spade up any baseball grounds.

If the federal government could only lay a war tax on talk what a revenue it would get!

THE TWO FRED'S

MAY BE MIXED

BISBEE, ARIZ., Aug. 15.—When two candidates have the same first name, especially when they are running for the same office, the casual voter is apt to become confused. Between Fred Sutter, of Cochise county and Fred Colter, of Apache, both candidates for governor, there is as much difference as lies between their respective homes, but some people will get them mixed.

It appears that Colter made a speech at Prescott on July 4th at the Annual Frontier Day celebration. He read the address from four or five typewritten pages, and as he read the paper shook violently and his voice quivered. A few days ago one of Sutter's friends handed a Sutter campaign card to a woman here.

"Fred Sutter," she read. Then she said: "Fred, Fred Sutter? No. I wouldn't vote for him—I know a good one on him."

"What is it?" asked Sutter's friend. The woman told of the July Fourth address.

"Just when he was shaking most and reading hardest," she said. "A big newspaper in front of the stand yelled: 'Don't be so damned scared. Fred; no body's listening to you anyhow.' I wouldn't vote for a man who has to read his address, and then make stage fright."

"But madam, this was Fred Colter, not Fred Sutter," explained Sutter's friend. "Sutter never reads his address; he is a trained speaker and instead of becoming frightened, he holds his audience with his delivery and personality."

"Are you sure it was Fred Colter and not the other Fred?" the woman inquired.

"Sure," said the friend. "All right—I'm for him. But give me his card so I won't get the two Freds mixed on election day."

RECEIVED LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

Mrs. A. Klaw, chairman of the knitting division of the local auxiliary of the Red Cross Thursday received a letter from one of the soldiers stationed at the Presidio, at San Francisco, thanking her for a helmet he had just been issued, preparatory to his going overseas. Mrs. Klaw, who is a constant knitter for the Red Cross, some time ago attached her name and address to a helmet which she completed, and this fell into the hands of the soldier, Allen O. Frazier. He expressed his appreciation in the letter which should prove as an impetus to the women of Tombstone to do their best for the boys, since it is appreciated, as this letter will show.

Presidio, Cal., Aug. 11-15.

Mrs. A. Klaw, Tombstone.

Friend:

Among other things issued to us yesterday for overseas duty was a knitted hood with a tag bearing your name and address.

To show my gratitude I am using this method of sincerely thanking you.

We are confined to our barracks under orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice.

Of course I know we are going overseas and have surmised the destination, but am honor-bound to venture no opinion.

When I have "arrived" I will drop you a line as I have very, very light correspondence.

With much respect,

ALLEN O. FRAZIER.

Co. 391, Q. M. C.

ARIZONA STEER SALE

Yavapai county range cattle are in demand by buyers, especially when the herds have been bred up to a high standard.

M. A. Perkins, the well known cattleman of Yavapai county, has just sold 1,000 head of range cattle to Morris & Co. of Chicago, the three grades of steers bringing \$64, \$54 and \$38 per head.

James Treagle, the representative making the purchase, did not even make a trip to the range to cull or cut back, having a knowledge of Mr. Perkins' careful breeding in past years, knowing the condition of the range, and the reliability of the Yavapai stockman with whom he was dealing.

Agricultural Extension Service, University of Arizona.